

January 30, 2008: Congressman Rodriguez Announces \$5 Million Grant for Maverick, Dimmit Head Start Programs

(Washington, D.C.) - Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23) announced today that a \$5,024,550 Federal grant has been awarded to the Community Services Agency of South Texas, Inc. by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services for local Head Start and Early Head Start programs. The Carrizo Springs-based agency currently provides comprehensive child development services to 731 children and families in Maverick, Dimmit, Frio and La Salle counties.

"The \$5 million Federal grant will give our community a tremendous opportunity to provide high quality early childhood education for at least 460 Maverick County children and 95 Dimmit County children," said Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez. "As a former educator and social worker, I saw first-hand how quality early childhood education often translates to future success for the child and family. That is why I will continue to work hard to secure Federal funds for childhood education across the 23rd District so communities have the necessary resources to ensure the highest quality education for our youth."

The Head Start program focuses on developing early math and reading, skills key to later success in school. The \$5 million Federal Head Start grant will fund local Head Start and Early Head Start programs including transportation for rural students, tutoring, and nutrition programs. Federally funded Head Start programs promote school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through educational, health, nutritional, social and other services to enrolled children and families from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Head Start programs engage parents in their children's learning and help them in making progress toward their educational, literacy and employment goals.

For more information or assistance with Federal grants, please contact Congressman Rodriguez's Congressional Office at 1-866-915-3493.

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